

June 17, 2016

City Council Newsletter



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Starting July 1: More Library Hours

Thanks to the support of a five year levy approved by City of Eugene voters in November 2015, all locations of Eugene Public Library will be open more hours each week starting July 1.

The new schedule at the Downtown Library will be Mon. through Thurs., 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Fri. through Sun., 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; and on the First Friday of each month, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. This will add Sunday morning hours at the Downtown Library.

The Bethel and Sheldon Branches will be open Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri., and Sat., 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Tues., 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; and closed on Sundays. The new schedule will increase Bethel and Sheldon's open hours from 26 to 48 hours per week, provide for open hours on six days of the week, and continue the popular Tuesday evening hours.

Levy funds will also support other expanded services, including public-use technology, especially at the branches; free events, storytimes, and classes, especially for children and teens; and an increased budget for books, movies, eBooks, and other items to provide quicker availability of in-demand titles. To ensure accountability and transparency, regular updates about levy spending and its uses will be posted on the Library's website. [More information about the Library levy.](#)



According to Library Director Connie Bennett, "All of us at Eugene Public Library look forward to this opportunity to provide even more benefits to the community -- educationally, economically, and for entertainment as well." For more information, contact Eugene Public Library at www.eugene-or.gov/library or 541-682-5450.

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Highway 99 Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge Opening Celebration

On Friday, June 24, from 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., the City of Eugene and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) will celebrate the opening of a vital connection in our bicycle and pedestrian transportation system.

A new bridge for people walking and bicycling has been built adjacent to Highway 99 and over the railroad tracks. The City of Eugene and ODOT worked together on the project to address essential safety improvements to this area of west Eugene. Before this new bridge was built, there were large gaps in the sidewalk and bicycle facility infrastructure, which created barriers when traveling by bike or foot.



The project area is approximately one mile in length and extends from Roosevelt Boulevard on the north to Garfield Street on the southeast. The new bridge includes a 12-foot multi-use path from Roosevelt Blvd to West 5th Avenue on the west side of Highway 99, and bike lanes for southbound bicycle traffic on West 7th Avenue. Sidewalks on the east side of West 7th Avenue complete the connection for people walking from Roosevelt Blvd to the new EmX station being constructed on Garfield Street.

The new bridge, path and sidewalks provide vital walking and biking connectivity in this part of Eugene, better connecting neighborhoods in the

area to downtown Eugene and the West Eugene EmX corridor that is currently under construction.

This project has been built thanks to a multi-million dollar grant from ODOT. For more information on the project or the celebration, please contact [Larisa Varela](#), Public Works Engineering Associate Planner, at 541-682-6887.

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All of Us! Disaster and Resilience Planning for Eugene's Most Vulnerable Residents

The Office of Human Rights and Neighborhood Involvement (HRNI) has received matching funds from the Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN) to support a summer diversity fellowship. Eugene is one of seven communities chosen during the competitive process and HRNI received more than 60 applications for the position.



Eugene's summer fellow is Oliver Gaskell, a graduate student in the Planning, Public Policy and Management program at the University of Oregon. Oliver's three-month fellowship will begin with an assessment of community-wide disaster and climate resilience planning as it addresses the needs of those who are homeless, disabled, persons of color, seniors, living alone or otherwise vulnerable. Additional work will include researching disaster and reliance planning in other communities, engaging local organizations, and developing recommendations for policy or program changes to ensure Eugene's disaster and climate resilience plans include *all of us*.

For more information, please contact [Rene Kane](#) in the Office Human Rights and Neighborhood Involvement at 541-682-6243.

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Every Corner is a Crosswalk

The Public Works Engineering Transportation Planning team has launched a crosswalk education campaign, "Every Corner is a Crosswalk." The purpose of the campaign is to increase driver knowledge that every corner is a crosswalk, marked or unmarked, and pedestrians have the right of way at intersections. Drivers are required to stop, it's the law.

The ad campaign includes bus, radio, television and social media. [A public service video](#) features a lineup of Eugene celebrities, including the Slug Queen, Sluggo from the Eugene Emeralds and Lily the frog from the Public Works Department. Ad placements are targeted towards adults ages 20-34. Local crash research has shown that it's an age bracket that sees a higher number of drivers involved in serious or fatal traffic crashes with pedestrians.

In November of 2015, the Eugene City Council adopted a Vision Zero Resolution that sets as official policy the Vision Zero goal that no loss of life or serious injury on Eugene's transportation system is acceptable. Vision Zero is a data-driven approach to eliminating serious or fatal crashes. With Vision Zero in mind, staff used local data on serious injury and fatal crashes involving pedestrians to target the audience for the campaign.

For more information on the "Every Corner is a Crosswalk" campaign, contact [Larisa Varela](#), Public Works Engineering Associate Planner, at 541-682-6887.



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Fun Shows Kick Off Summer for Kids at Eugene Public Library

Kids and family are invited to start summer with smiles at Curt Nelson's "Top Secret" magic show! Join the fun at the Downtown Eugene Public Library on Tuesday, June 21, 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.; at Bethel Branch Library on Wednesday, June 22, 3:00 p.m.; or at Sheldon Branch Library on Thursday, June 23, 3:00 p.m.

Plus: at the Downtown Library on Friday, June 24, 1:00 and 3:00 p.m., Oregon Shadow Theatre will perform "Jack and the Dragon," a fairy tale featuring colorful shadow puppets and live Appalachian banjo and hammer dulcimer music.

Admission to all shows is free. For shows at the Downtown Library, pick up free tickets starting 30 minutes before each show.



The 2016 Summer Reading theme is "Get in the Game!"

While at the Library, kids can sign up for Summer Reading and choose a free book to keep. Parents who sign up for adult Summer Reading get a free flashdrive plus a coupon for a free coffee or \$1 off books at the Friends of the Library book store. For more information, visit www.eugene-or.gov/library or call 541-682-8316.

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Eugene Marathon Achieves Gold in Sustainability

On June 6th, the Council for Responsible Sport awarded a Gold level certification to the 2016 Eugene Marathon making it the second local event of this size to earn this high level of independent, third-party sustainable sport certification.

The City of Eugene's Waste Prevention program worked with representatives of the Eugene Marathon to help the event earn 45 of the 52 possible credits required for Gold certification.



Efforts included publishing a sustainability report, purchasing 100% of renewable energy for the event through EWEB Greenpower, donating all unused food to local food banks, and providing alternatives to bottled water at the event by providing durable water bottles that could be filled at EWEB's water truck to all race participants. The event also offered discounted opportunities to participate in the Duck Dash to runners from Cesar Chavez Elementary School, increasing access to the event for local children.

For more information about The City of Eugene's Sustainable Sport Event Pilot Program, please contact [Deveron Musgrave](#) (541-682-6842).

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New Life for Charnel Mulligan Park

Construction on Charnel Mulligan Park will be getting underway this month. The park will be closed all summer for a much-needed facelift. Improvements include a new playground, sidewalk repaving, removal of the berms around the edges of the park for better visibility and more grassy play area, landscape and irrigation renovations, and 37 new trees.

The project is a great example of neighbors working closely together with parks staff to help address aging infrastructure and behavioral problems that were occurring in the park as well as create an inviting park experience for all. Neighbors were not only instrumental in advocating for the park to be renovated and contributing significant time and energy during the three year planning process, they also raised over \$15,000 dollars toward a sand and water play feature. The park is expected to re-open this October, better than ever.



For more information visit www.eugene-or.gov/charnelmulligan or contact Parks and Open Space Landscape Architect [Philip Richardson](#) or 541-682-4906.

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Public Works Recommended for Re-Accreditation

The American Public Works Association (APWA) Reaccreditation process ("audit") of the Public Works Department is complete. All indications point to the department's reaccreditation later this year. During the two-day site visit, evaluators from across the country performed a rigorous review of Public Works Department procedures, policies and practices.



The review committee looked at nearly 160 practices across the six Public Works divisions. The evaluators determined 98 percent of the practices were "fully compliant" and the remaining two percent were "substantially compliant." Three practices were tabbed as "model" practices. Public Works was also found to be "fully compliant" in APWA's newest practice, Environmental Management Systems, which demonstrates the department's commitment to environmental enhancement and builds upon the work of Eugene's Climate Recovery Ordinance.

While the evaluators recommended the department be reaccredited, the formal decision is expected this summer. Once confirmed, Eugene will be recognized at APWA's Public Works Expo in Minneapolis in August.

Eugene's Public Works Department was originally accredited in 2004. This is the third time it will be re-accredited. For more information on this valuable achievement, contact [Brian Richardson](#), Public Affairs Manager, at 541-682-5523.

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Links to Eugene City Council Resources

[Mayor & City Council Webpage](#)



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